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THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

BACK BAY ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

BOSTON ART COMMISSION

BOSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION

- Bay State Road/Back Bay West Architectural Conservation District
- Bay Village Historic District
- Mission Hill Triangle Architectural Conservation District
- St. Botolph Street Architectural Conservation District
- South End Landmarks District

Raymond L. Flynn, Mayor
Lorraine M. Downey, Director

Air Pollution Control Commission

The Air Pollution Control Commission is responsible for enforcing city and state air and noise pollution regulations and for administering the City of Boston's parking freeze, intended to reduce the amount of automobile emissions in the city and encourage the use of public transit. The regulations require that the commission hold quarterly hearings to review applications for any new public parking facilities within the freeze area.

The commission also issues permits for abrasive blasting of buildings and for open burning within the city; no such activity may take place without prior approval from the commission. Violations of commission regulations are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

In addition to their mandated activities, commission staff members are involved with the issue of household hazardous waste, both educating the public about source reduction and developing programs for the disposal of existing waste.

Boston Art Commission

Since 1890, the Boston Art Commission has been curator of city-owned public art, responsible for its acquisition, siting, maintenance and interpretation.

The commission reviews and approves all acquisitions of public art works, such as statues, paintings, sculptures, fountains and plaques. To groups and individuals planning or offering art for public places in Boston, the commission provides technical assistance at all stages of the process and approves of the final design and siting. The commission sponsors competitions for proposed works of art for Boston neighborhood and downtown spaces.

In 1987 the Art Commission began its Adopt-A-Statue Program — a public/private effort to raise $1.2 million to restore and maintain Boston's outdoor public art. The program will provide funds to restore thirty-nine pieces of outdoor public art and also establish a permanent maintenance endowment for the annual maintenance of sixty-nine major sculptures in the city.

* The Boston Art Commission is jointly administered by the Environment Department and the Office of the Arts and Humanities.

Back Bay Architectural Commission

Established in 1966 to protect the distinguished Victorian architecture of the Back Bay, the commission reviews all changes to exteriors of buildings in that district. The twelve-member commission holds monthly public hearings at which it determines the appropriateness of applications for proposed exterior building changes. It then votes to approve, to approve with conditions, or to disapprove the application.

All such changes, including (but not limited to) demolition, new construction, installation of a sign, or new windows, must have commission approval before the work is begun or a building permit is issued. Work done without prior approval is cited for violation, and the commission may seek legal action to remove unauthorized alterations and restore the former appearance.

For design guidelines, applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, and information about the Back Bay Architectural Commission, contact the Environment Department office.

Membership as of June, 1988
* *Nominated by*

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

Richard A. Dimino, *Chairman*
Ex Officio
Commissioner,
Boston Transportation Department

Members

Bart Mitchell
At large

Judith Kurland
Ex Officio
Commissioner of Health and Hospitals
(Ronald Jones, Designee)

Edwin R. Williams
At large

BACK BAY ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Ann Gleason, *Chairman*
*Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay**

Members

John Christiansen
*Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay**

Anthony O. Gordon
*Greater Boston Real Estate Board**

Roderick MacDonald
*Back Bay Association**

Dell Mitchell
*Boston Society of Architects**

Susan Prindle
At large

Harold Simon
*Back Bay Association**

Nelson Scott Smith
*Boston Society of Architects**

Anthony Summers
At large

Alternates

Richard Brayley
*Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay**

Billie Brenner
At large

Maurice Frye
*Greater Boston Real Estate Board**

Barry Hoffman
*Back Bay Association**

George Marsh
*Boston Society of Architects**

BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

David Buckley, *Chairman*
*Boston Society of Architects**

Members

Ann Beha
*Beacon Hill Civic Association**

Douglas Derusha
At large

Kay Flynn
*Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities**

BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION *(Continued)*

Rosalind Gorin
*Greater Boston Real Estate Board**

Alternates

Russell Gaudreau, Jr.
At large

Frank Mead
*Boston Society of Architects**

Anthony Pangaro
*Greater Boston Real Estate Board**

William Pear
*Boston Society of Architects**

BOSTON ART COMMISSION

Stephen D. Paine, *Chairman*
*Museum of Fine Arts**

Members

Robert J. Cormier
*The Copley Society**

William B. Osgood
*Boston Public Library**

Bruce P. Rossley
Ex officio
Commissioner of the Office of the Arts and Humanities

Donald L. Stull
*Boston Society of Architects**

BOSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Ronald Scanlon, *Chairman*
At large

Members

Danny Chin
At large

William Coughlin
Ex officio
Commissioner, Parks and Recreation

Edith DeAngelis
At large

Joan Engler
At large

John Lewis
At large

Margaret Owen
At large

BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Alan Schwartz, *Chairman*
At large

Anthony Pisani, *Vice-Chairman*
*Boston Society of Architects**

Members

Sally Baer
*Boston Society of Landscape Architects**

Lawrence A. Bianchi
*Greater Boston Real Estate Board**

Andrea Gilmore
*Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities**

BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION
(Continued)

Stanley Moss
*American Planning Association**

Daniel Ocasio
*Boston Society of Architects**

Jean Muller Ryan
*Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce**

Linzee Weld
At large

Margaret Owen
At large

Alternates

James Alexander
*Boston Society of Architects**

Richard Bertman
*Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce**

Thomas Ennis
*Boston Society of Landscape Architects**

Rosalind Gorin
*Boston Real Estate Board**

Pauline Chase Harrell
*Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities**

Pamela McDermott
At large

John Quatrale
*American Planning Association**

Davis Woo
At large

BAY STATE ROAD/ BACK BAY WEST ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Members

Thomas Ennis
Boston Landmarks Commission

Daniel Ocasio
Boston Landmarks Commission

Dorothea Ryan
*Kenmore Area Action Council**

Victor Themo
*Kenmore Area Action Council**

Linzee Weld
Boston Landmarks Commission

Alternates

Madeline Kasdon
*Kenmore Area Action Council**

Richard Leazott
Neighborhood Representative

BAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Members

James Alexander
Boston Landmarks Commission

Edgar Bingham
*Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities**

Terrence Janericco
District Resident

Sally G. Withington
*Greater Boston Real Estate Board**

BAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
(Continued)

Alternates

Shirley Gibbons
District Resident

MISSION HILL TRIANGLE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

Members

Richard Bertman
Boston Landmarks Commission

Andrea Gilmore
Boston Landmarks Commission

Daniel Ocasio
Boston Landmarks Commission

Lois Regestein
*Mission Hill Triangle Study Committee**

John Yurewicz
*Mission Hill Triangle Study Committee**

Alternates

Loretta Dixon
*Mission Hill Triangle Study Committee**

Mary Anne Wuthrich
*Mission Hill Triangle Study Committee**

ST. BOTOLPH STREET ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

Members

Mary Doyle
*St. Botolph Citizens Committee**

Rosalind Gorin
Boston Landmarks Commission

John Morse
*St. Botolph Citizens Committee**

Stanley Moss
Boston Landmarks Commission

Anthony Pisani
Boston Landmarks Commission

Susan Weatherbie
*St. Botolph Citizens Committee**

Alternates

Stephanie Pendleton
*St. Botolph Citizens Committee**

SOUTH END LANDMARKS DISTRICT COMMISSION

Designation provided that prior to appointment of a District Commission, the Boston Landmarks Commissioners would serve on an interim basis. Commissioners currently serving are:

Richard Bertman
Pauline Chase
Stanley Moss
Anthony Pisani
John Quatrale
Alan Schwartz

Beacon Hill Architectural Commission

Originating in 1955, the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission is the oldest historic district commission in the commonwealth. Its statute authorizes the commission to review changes to the exteriors of all buildings in one of the nation's most historic neighborhoods.

At its monthly meetings, the commission determines if proposed changes to buildings — alterations visible from a public way — are appropriate to the historic character of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian styles of the neighborhood. It then votes to approve, to approve with conditions, or to disapprove the proposals.

Without exception, exterior alterations to buildings must have the approval of the commission prior to construction. Changes subject to review range from demolition and major reconstruction to signs and new paint colors. Work executed without approval is cited in violation, and the commission is empowered to seek a legal action to remove any unauthorized alterations and restore former conditions.

Design guidelines, applications for Certificate of Appropriateness and other information about the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission are available at the Environment Department office.

The Boston Conservation Commission

Under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c.131 s.40, local conservation commissions review construction projects and proposals for their effect on wetland resources including rivers, ponds, estuaries, fresh- and salt-water marshes, the ocean, and land under these waters.

Boston's Conservation Commission guards the public interest in these resource areas to assure water supply and quality, fin and shellfish habitat, prevention of flood and storm damage, and protection of wildlife habitat. The commission also seeks to protect and preserve the open space and natural areas of the city.

To find out if your project requires a filing with the commission, or for more information on Boston's urban environment, contact the Environment Department office.

The Boston Landmarks Commission

The Boston Landmarks Commission is the city's historic preservation agency, created in 1975 to cover a wide range of activities directed toward protecting Boston's uniquely built environment.

The commission is responsible under state law for:

- architectural surveys of all the city's neighborhoods, relating each community's history as recorded by its buildings and sites;
- public education on architecture and historic preservation, including publications and exhibitions;
- designation of landmarks and several categories of historic districts within the city through a process involving the preparation of technical study reports and public hearings. The result is a review process for changes to designated properties within limits set at the time of designation.

Any ten Boston voters may petition the commission to designate a landmark, landmark district, architectural conservation district or protection area. Since the inception of the Landmarks Commission, the Bay State Road/Back Bay West Architectural Conservation District, Bay Village Historic District, Mission Hill Triangle Architectural Conservation District, St. Botolph Street Architectural Conservation District and South End Landmarks District have been established.

In 1983, the Landmarks Commission began a program to protect Boston's archaeological resources. Today, the Environment Department's City Archaeology Program manages the archaeological remains located on public and private land in Boston. The City Archaeologist is responsible for surveying and inventorying sites, managing artifact collections and providing educational resources to Boston public schools.

More detailed information on activities of the Boston Landmarks Commission, including survey and study reports, designation petitions and historic district guidelines, is available at the Environment Department.

CITY OF BOSTON PRINTING SECTION

Since 1890, commissions of dedicated volunteers have worked to protect Boston's distinguished architecture, open spaces and public works of art. Today, six commissions under the auspices of the Environment Department are collectively responsible for protecting the physical and natural resources of the City of Boston.

The six commissions making up the Environment Department — Air Pollution Control Commission, Back Bay Architectural Commission, Beacon Hill Architectural Commission, Boston Art Commission, Boston Conservation Commission and Boston Landmarks Commission — retain their independence to act within their area of statutory responsibility; at the same time the Environment Department is designed to bring about more efficient use of each commission's staff resources.

In addition to these statutory responsibilities, the Environment Department has become a chief contributor to city policy regarding environmental quality and on issues related to the clean up of Boston Harbor, public access to waterfront areas, the reclamation of Long Island as a recreational resource, and an advisor to a multitude of neighborhood conservation and preservation organizations. The department also manages the City Archaeology Program.

The Environment Department is indicative of my administration's commitment to improving the quality of life for all Boston residents. The Environment Department stands ready to help Bostonians in all neighborhoods protect their heritage.

Raymond L. Flynn
Mayor of Boston

Environment Department
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